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## MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

At no time since the dedication of the society's building has it seemed feasible, in view of the expense involved, to bring out the volume which was planned to serve as a commemorative record of that occasion. It has seemed best, therefore, rather than delay longer, to give up the larger plan and to publish part of the material intended for that volume in this "Dedication Number" of the BULLETIN.

The long awaited work on *Minnesota Geographic Names* by Dr. Upham, the society's archeologist, was finally received from the printer in May and has been distributed. Because of the increased costs of printing and binding only a small edition was issued and copies have been sent, as a rule, only to such of the active members as filled out and returned a request card sent to them for that purpose. Copies will now be sent, as long as the supply holds out, to any members, whether active, corresponding, or honorary, upon receipt of a request. A few copies are available for sale to nonmembers at \$3.50 each.

Fifteen new members, all active, were enrolled during the quarter ending June 30: Frederic M. Fogg, Allan L. Firestone, Hiram D. Frankel, Harriet W. Sewall, and Glen R. Townsend of St. Paul; Mrs. Mary P. Allen, Edward J. Brown, Mrs. Jeannette M. Daniel, Julius E. Miner, Mrs. Maria H. Miner, and Elsa R. Nordin of Minneapolis; William L. Hilliard of Lengby; Trevanion W. Hugo of Duluth; Adolph Sucker of Lewisville; and Dr. Louis H. Roddis of the United States Medical Corps, now stationed at San Diego, California. The society has lost during the same period one active member, Robert B. C. Bement of St. Paul, who died May 7, 1920.

Two important positions on the staff became vacant in May as the results of the resignations of Miss Dorothy A. Heinemann, editorial assistant, and Miss Ilona B. Schmidt, head cataloguer. The editorial position has been filled by the appointment of Miss

Mary E. Wheelhouse, of the staff of the Illinois State Historical Library, who took up the work July 1; but so far no competent person has been found who will accept the position of head cataloguer at the salary available.

The society's building was inspected recently by the state architect of North Dakota with a view to getting suggestions for the Memorial Building to be erected at Bismarck for the use of the State Historical Society of North Dakota. He expressed himself as being much pleased with the design and plan of the Minnesota building.

The manuscript collections of the society are rapidly becoming more and more useful not only to research students but also to all persons and organizations interested in various phases of local history. During the past quarter two talks have been given by the curator to high school history classes on the use of manuscript material in the writing of history, and the system of filing and caring for manuscripts was quite fully explained to a visiting class from the summer school for librarians at the university. One study club of Minneapolis has sent its program committee to look through the collections for material for a course in local history which that club will pursue during the winter. A representative from the United States Weather Bureau has consulted old meteorological records kept at Fort Snelling and in St. Paul in the early days for statistics to be used in a study of changes in Minnesota weather during the last half century. A mission field agent of the Interchurch World Movement has consulted original records and accounts of early missions among the Indians of Minnesota. A local novelist has used an old diary of frontier days in his latest novel. A student of the history of Methodism in Minnesota has spent considerable time in the manuscript room, and two university professors, one from Minnesota and the other from Chicago, have made use of valuable source material in the collections. Reporters and feature writers for the local newspapers are regular visitors to the manuscript division, where they frequently find material for special articles for the Sunday editions of their papers.

The receipt of the seven new table cases, purchased with the remnant of the building equipment fund, has considerably increased the facilities for the display of special exhibits in the museum. Such exhibits recently installed include an Indian scout costume, Ojibway clothing, Indian ceremonial stones, Mandan bone implements, a group of Minnesota immigration pamphlets, a collection of rare postage stamps loaned by Dr. John M. Armstrong of St. Paul, and selections from the autograph collection of Mr. Joseph G. Heyn of Minneapolis.

During April and May the museum was visited by 55 different classes or groups from schools with a total of 1,336 pupils accompanied by 64 teachers. Over half of these classes came from schools outside of St. Paul, many of them located thirty or forty miles from the building. Reports from teachers indicate that these visits are of considerable educational value.

The children's history hours in the museum were brought to a close for the season with two talks by the curator, on "Minnesota Pioneers," April 10, and on "Pioneer Life in Minnesota," April 24. Thirteen of these meetings were held during the year with a total attendance of 1,281.

A series of historic trips to places around the Twin Cities, which was begun on May 29 by an excursion to old Fort Snelling and Mendota, has proved to be a big success, and much interest has been aroused in the historic past of the localities visited. Strangers in the Twin Cities have taken advantage of the trips to learn more about the region, and teachers from the high schools appear to have found them of value. Sixty-five persons went on the excursion to Indian Mounds Park and Battle Creek, June 12, and twenty-six on the trip to the site of the Pond Mission at Lake Calhoun, June 26. The many questions asked by the members of the parties showed the interest in the subjects discussed by the curator.

The St. Paul chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held a meeting in the society's auditorium on the afternoon of April 13, at which the curator of the museum spoke on the possibilities of coöperation between the Daughters and the Minne-

sota Historical Society. Following the meeting tea was served in the west hall. A special historical committee was appointed at a later meeting of the chapter, and a number of the members have been serving from time to time as volunteer workers in the museum, assisting in the cataloguing of the collections.

A picnic of the Twin City History Teachers' Club, scheduled to be held at Battle Creek, near St. Paul, May 22, was transferred to the museum rooms at the last moment because of rain. Mr. Babcock gave a talk on the history of Battle Creek and Kaposia.

#### ACCESSIONS

Learning that a pamphlet of thirty-two pages entitled *Wanderings in Minnesota during the Indian Troubles of 1862*, by Thomas Scantlebury, which was hitherto unknown to the society, had been published in Chicago in 1867, Mr. Vail, the society's librarian, succeeded, after considerable correspondence, in getting in touch with a sister of the author, Mrs. Joseph W. Hambleton of Paterson, New Jersey, with the result that she has presented to the society not only a copy of the pamphlet but also the original manuscript from which it was printed. The narrative is in the form of a diary and records the daily experiences and impressions of a young soldier who participated in the campaign against the Indians. Enlisting for service with the Union Army just three days before the beginning of the Indian outbreak, Scantlebury was placed in Company H, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and within a few weeks he was ordered to join Colonel Sibley's forces at Fort Ridgely. He fought in the Battle of Wood Lake, helped to care for refugees and guard Indian prisoners at Camp Release, and witnessed the execution of thirty-eight Indians at Mankato. In the fall of 1863 he was sent south to recruit Negroes for the Union Army. He became ill the following spring, was granted sick leave, and died on board a boat while on his way up the Mississippi River to visit friends and relatives in Illinois. The pamphlet is of considerable interest to bibliophiles as well as to historians, for it is doubtful whether more than one or two other copies are in existence.

A valuable collection of over a hundred books, including many expensive works in fine bindings, has been presented by Mr. and Mrs. Edwin P. Capen of Minneapolis. The books are mainly from the library of Mrs. Capen's father, the late Joseph H. Thompson, who came to Minnesota in 1856 and who conducted the first express office in Minneapolis. Included in the gift are a portfolio of pictures and a box of stereoscopic views, some of which are of Minnesota scenes.

Three other large lots of books received during the last quarter are: about two hundred volumes and one hundred pamphlets, including regimental histories, geological reports, and publications of the Royal Society of Canada which were transferred from the Minnesota State Library; over six hundred books and about twenty pamphlets, consisting largely of old text books valuable for the history of education, which were transferred from the St. Paul Public Library; and over five hundred books selected from Minnesota's quota of the surplus from the great collection of books assembled by the American Library Association for the use of soldiers and sailors in the war.

A collection of pamphlets of unusual interest has been presented by Mr. D. M. Frederiksen of Minneapolis, president of the Scandinavian Canadian Land Company. It consists of immigrant guides, land maps, and prospectuses relating principally to southern Minnesota and issued or used during the eighties by land firms of which Mr. Frederiksen was a proprietor. The claims made in the pamphlets regarding the merits of this region, which certainly have been amply justified, led several thousand families to buy land in the two southern tiers of counties of Minnesota from these companies at prices ranging from six to fifteen dollars an acre. Four different languages, English, Norwegian, Swedish, and German, are represented in this literature. All except two of the items are new to the library. Perhaps the most interesting of them is a pamphlet entitled *Catholic Colonization in Minnesota*, "published by the Catholic Colonization Bureau of Minnesota, under the auspices of the Right Reverend John Ireland, coadjutor bishop of St. Paul," in 1879.

The latest number of a financial manual is the only one of much value to a business house but the old files are often needed in an historical or reference library. Consequently the gift from the First National Bank of St. Paul of forty-six volumes of Poore's and Moody's manuals and of various banker's encyclopedias, registers, and directories, extending from 1909 to 1918, is much appreciated.

A valuable run of the *New York Tribune* for the important period from 1850 to 1866 has been received from Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Faulkner of Minneapolis. The files for the Civil War years are complete and bound.

Recent important additions to the society's collection of material relating to the Scandinavian element include partial files of a number of Swedish Baptist periodicals and reports, sermons, and other religious literature presented by the Reverend G. Arvid Hagstrom, president of Bethel Academy of St. Paul; a collection of nearly two hundred Swedish books and pamphlets presented by Miss Elsa R. Nordin of the library staff; and a number of valuable historical books presented by Professor Andrew A. Stomberg of the University of Minnesota.

An increasing number of friends of the society are turning over to it their accumulations of old magazines, books, and pamphlets, which are often very useful for filling in the files in the society's library. The largest recent gifts of this sort have come from Mrs. Charles L. Spencer, Mrs. Charles W. Bunn, the estate of Mrs. Julius M. Goldsmith of St. Paul, and the estate of Mr. Lycurgus R. Moyer of Montevideo. There are still many gaps in the periodical files, and copies of the *Home Sector*, the *American Legion Weekly*, and the *Great Lakes Recruit* are particularly desired.

The state department of labor and industries now located in the Old Capitol has taken advantage of the new archives law to transfer to the custody of the society some of its noncurrent files. The material thus far received consists largely of inspectors' orders and reports, reports of special investigations, and back files of correspondence.

The records and collections of the Historical Society of the Minnesota Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, an organization which was in existence from 1857 to about 1895, have been transferred from Hamline University to the custody of the Minnesota Historical Society. The manuscript material includes: minutes of the society itself, of the Winona District Ministerial Association from 1860 to 1871, and of the district conferences of St. Paul, 1881 to 1886, and St. Cloud, 1873 to 1876; records of early missions and classes from 1840 to 1866; correspondence and papers of the Reverend Chauncey Hobart and other pioneer ministers, dating back to 1849; and a large number of reminiscent letters, papers, and sermons. It is fitting that this invaluable collection of sources for the early history of Methodism in Minnesota should be preserved alongside of similar collections relating to other denominations where it will be of the greatest use to students of the religious history of the state.

The Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association, through the courtesy of Mrs. Andreas Ueland of Minneapolis, has recently turned over the records of that organization to the society. While by no means complete, they contain a great deal of source material of value to the student of the suffrage movement in Minnesota. The official records, consisting of minutes and proceedings of the executive board, cover the years 1912 to 1914; but the correspondence file, which is made up largely of letters of politicians defining their positions on woman suffrage, covers only the year 1916. There are also a few synopses of suffrage legislation in other states, letters to the Minnesota legislature regarding suffrage matters, and written opinions of lawyers on the constitutionality of certain suffrage measures before the legislature. Accompanying these records is a series of five scrapbooks containing clippings from local and national newspapers and other publications regarding suffrage for the period from 1911 to 1918. One especially entertaining volume is made up of posters, handbills, maps, and various small booklets issued by the National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company and by different state organizations. The two pens used by Governor Burnquist in



signing the presidential suffrage bill and the suffrage ratification bill in 1919 have also been presented by Mrs. Ueland.

An original letter of David Colden, son of Cadwallader Colden, lieutenant-governor of New York from 1761 to 1776, and father of Cadwallader Colden, the eminent lawyer and mayor of New York City, has recently been added to the society's collection of colonial manuscripts by Mrs. Charles Neely of St. Paul, a descendant of David Colden. The letter was written by Colden to his wife, June 27, 1784, from London, whither he had gone to retrieve his losses in the Revolutionary War by claiming from the British government a reward for his loyalty to the crown. He was in poor health at the time and he died on July 10, 1784, a little less than two weeks after the date of this letter. The contents of the letter are not only full of human interest but they are also of historic value, for the writer mentions intimately a number of very prominent loyalists who were in London on a mission like his own and discusses at length their success in securing the payment of their claims. He holds out to his wife the hope of a new home the following spring in Canada or Nova Scotia, the common refuge of loyalists at this time. Only once, and then in a postscript added after hearing bad news concerning one member of his family, does he give expression to his bitterness toward the "Cursed, cursed Tyrants who drive me from my Wife & Children, & put it out of my Power to assist or comfort them."

In 1856 Edwin Whitefield, an eastern artist and promoter, traveled through the southern part of what is now Kandiyohi County in the interests of one of the numerous town-site companies of that period and assisted in selecting town sites and in naming the lakes and future towns of that region. He also made numerous water-color sketches of the scenic attractions, which were used the following winter on a lecture tour of the eastern states, where he set forth in alluring terms the wonderful opportunities which Minnesota offered to home seekers from the East. Mr. Whitefield wrote numerous articles on the same subject for the eastern papers and was in general an active promoter of immigration to the territory in the late fifties. By a happy

chance a number of his letters and papers and a representative collection of his water-color sketches of the lakes and other natural beauties of the young territory, particularly those in Kandiyohi County, have been preserved by his son, Mr. Wilfred C. Whitefield of Sauk Center, and have now, through the courtesy of Mr. Victor E. Lawson of Willmar, been presented to the society.

An old daybook of the retail firm of Whitmore and Reed of Steamboat Rock, Iowa, for the years 1870 and 1871 was included in material sent to the library by the Reverend Francis L. Palmer of Stillwater. According to the accounts of this firm sugar retailed in 1870 at seven pounds for a dollar, raisins at twenty-five cents a pound, and potatoes at seventy-five cents a bushel; but rubber boots were three dollars and a half a pair and shoes only one dollar and a half.

Three record books of the St. Paul Reading Circle, organized for social and literary purposes in 1872, recently have been presented to the society by Mrs. Charles L. Spencer. This circle was limited to thirty active members and met every other Monday evening from October until April in the homes of its members. The evenings were spent in reading the writings of Dickens, Shakespeare, Thackeray, Coleridge, and other authors of equal rank. Many names of prominent citizens appear on the membership rolls. The records presented cover the period from 1872 to 1880.

From the Thursday Musical of Minneapolis, through the courtesy of Mrs. George L. Lang, corresponding secretary, the society has received a manuscript history of the club during the first eight years of its existence, prepared by Mrs. Herbert W. Gleason, its president from 1893 to 1900. The history is a valuable record of musical activities in Minneapolis during these years, for Mrs. Gleason notes events of general interest in the world of music as well as the actual proceedings of the Thursday Musical. Of special interest are the accounts of a concert and reception in 1896 and a "Home Composers' Concert" in 1899, for the programs on both of these occasions "consisted exclusively of compositions by local musicians." A greatly condensed version

of Mrs. Gleason's history is published in the *Minneapolis Journal* for November 23.

"The Condition of Reservation Indians" is the title of a manuscript prepared at the request of the United States Board of Indian Commissioners by William M. Camp of Chicago, editor of the *Railway Review*, and presented by him to the society. The author's knowledge of the Indians was gained from periodic visits to their reservations covering about seventeen years. The reservations visited lie principally in the states of North and South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, but occasional trips were made to the homes of the southern Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Kiowa, and Pawnee in Oklahoma.

A collection of twelve autograph letters from prominent lecturers of the decade of the sixties has been received from Mr. Arthur G. Douglass of Minneapolis. The letters were originally written to his father, the Reverend Ebenezer Douglass, while he was arranging for a lecture course under the auspices of the Congregational church of Woonsocket, Rhode Island. Schuyler Colfax, George William Curtis, Charles Sumner, Frederick Douglass, Anna E. Dickinson, Louis Agassiz, and Josiah G. Holland are the most prominent people represented. It is interesting to note that the terms ranged from fifty to one hundred dollars a lecture and that the Reverend Josiah P. Thompson of Broadway Tabernacle, New York, stated his fee as payable in " 'legal tender,' without regard to General Butler's theories of a convertible currency."

The society has received from the compilers typewritten copies of two useful bibliographies of Minnesota interest prepared for the library school of the University of Wisconsin. They are entitled: "Mesabi Iron Range of Minnesota," by Signa Niemie (19 p.), and "Ojibway Indians in Wisconsin and Minnesota," by Eva Alford (13 p.).

A typewritten copy of the "Industrial Survey of Minneapolis, Prepared by Minneapolis Civic & Commerce Association" (15 p.) was recently presented by the association. The survey is practically a sketch of the economic history of the city.

Mrs. Edwin W. Osborne of St. Paul has deposited a part of her extensive collection of articles illustrating early American domestic life with the society. Fine specimens of Bohemian glassware, old-fashioned china, a pearl-handled bouquet holder, three spinning wheels of various types, skein reels, a pair of wool carders, an old blower or bellows, dresses, and many other interesting articles are included in this valuable collection.

Two old iron broilers of the type common in pioneer days and an old-fashioned spinning wheel are gifts of Mr. Oliver Pepin of Minneapolis, from his old homestead near Bloomington.

A small walnut melodeon, which was carried on concert tours throughout Minnesota in the late sixties by the Andrews Opera Company, is the gift of Mrs. Fred W. Clayton of St. Paul.

A large wooden inkwell and penholder, said to have been used by the first territorial legislature of Minnesota, is a gift of Mrs. Charles M. Power of St. Paul.

A "notable pictorial record" of the early days of the flour-milling industry at the Falls of St. Anthony, which was displayed at the annual meeting of the Minnesota Territorial Pioneers' Association in May, has been presented to the society by Dr. Arthur M. Eastman of Minneapolis. It consists of views of the buildings of the Minnesota Flouring Mills, later known as the Island Mills, together with portraits of the founders and successive owners, including the donor's father, John W. Eastman—all mounted with explanatory captions and a brief typewritten "History of Island Mills," and in a single frame. The exhibit is reproduced in the *Minneapolis Tribune* for May 16.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Orlando R. Manners of St. Paul, Mrs. C. D. Fisher of Tonka Bay has added a framed tinted photograph of her brother-in-law, Captain John King of the Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, to the portrait collection of the society. She has given also a sabre and several military papers of Captain King.

A crayon portrait of the late Dr. John Wright of St. Paul, a mounted group of pictures of early St. Paul, a large English

Bible of 1860, and several other interesting relics have been presented by Mrs. Frank Jerrard of St. Paul.

In the name of her late husband Mrs. Charles N. Akers of St. Paul has presented a small framed print of Colonel William Colvill, commander of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry.

Mr. Hugo V. Koch of St. Paul, past department commander for Minnesota of the United Spanish War Veterans, has recently presented a Mexican flag which was taken from San Juan prison in Vera Cruz at the time of the American occupation of that port in April, 1914.

An interesting collection of objects illustrative of life and customs in Cuba, which was gathered during the period of American occupation, from 1900 to 1902, has been presented to the museum by Miss Mary Folwell of Minneapolis. The collection includes three musical instruments, a native Cuban drum made out of a log of wood, a *guira* or gourd instrument for making a sound like that of pieces of sandpaper rubbed together, and a *bomba* or pottery jar for the deep bass notes of the modern trombone. These instruments constitute a full orchestra and give weird effects. Among the other objects are baskets for all sorts of purposes, native pottery, a sieve of yucca for sifting grain, a broom of palm leaves, a platter with the bull-fight pattern, two small silver coins used as presents to the guests at christenings, two small rag dolls, tiny figurines from the Chinese bazaar in Havana, and a fine Spanish *olla*.

Chief Justice Calvin L. Brown of the supreme court has deposited in the custody of the society a wig of the type worn by English justices on the bench. The wig was purchased in London by the Honorable Charles C. Willson of Rochester and was recently presented by him to Justice Brown.

A three-quarter length coat of mail composed of overlapping plates of horn or prepared leather, joined together with strips of brass-linked chain mail, and a fine brass helmet have recently been presented by Mr. Charles A. Dunham of St. Paul and Mr. G. M. Knisely of Mount Vernon, Washington. The helmet is of the type generally worn in southern Europe during the sixteenth

century, without special protection for the face, and shows evidence of hard usage.

Mrs. Charles L. Spencer of St. Paul has presented a fine beaded papoose carrier of Sioux workmanship, a leather belt heavily decorated with silver disks and flash metal ornaments, a claw necklace, and several other Indian articles.

The Misses Lydia and Bertha Burkhard of White Bear have deposited with the society a large, heavily beaded table cover, said to have been made by an Indian princess in Canada.

Dr. James C. Ferguson of St. Paul has deposited with the society three beautiful beaded bags of Sioux workmanship and a collection of five handsome pipestone pipes which were obtained from Sioux warriors in the late seventies and early eighties. He has also presented a fine silk dress of the early nineteenth century period, a queer little bonnet, and several other interesting articles of by-gone days.